

The S.P.O.T. Express

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THIS ISSUE'S ISSUE...

Buddy Up in 2010!

If you have volunteered in the past, but have gotten sidetracked with other responsibilities, we hope that you will put your commitment to the animals back on the priority list for 2010. We have a lot of exciting things in store at Metro Animal Services and will need more volunteer power than ever. With the advent of the new adoption facility and an increasing demand for our programs and services comes an increasing demand for volunteer and financial support.

Actually, if we can be so bold, we would like to ask you to take on a holiday project for us. Here's the project: As you navigate your way through the holidays visiting friends and family, we would like you to keep your eye out for a buddy! That is, we'd like to encourage you to recruit a buddy to volunteer with you. Almost every project is more successful and enjoyable if you have a friend to share the experience with. People tend to be more committed if they have a friend involved, too. (Not to mention, the accountability factor is a good motivator!) Please seriously consider recruiting a buddy to volunteer. If recruiting a human buddy doesn't work for you, we have plenty of animals here at the shelter who need you to be their buddy for walks, play time, and socialization. We look forward to seeing you—and your buddy—in 2010!

Happy Holidays! - The MAS Staff

Donate to Metro Animal Services!

Your donation will help support and enhance programs that aren't covered by our general expenditures, such as The Spot Fund for our new state-of-the-art adoption campus, the animal care fund to enhance the lives of the animals in our shelter, and S.P.O.T., our low-cost, mobile spay and neuter clinic.

Click [here](#) to donate now!



WISHLIST

We need new dog beds!

The animals at MAS are wishing for new Kuranda beds for the holidays!

Visit our [homepage](#) for more information, or [click here](#) to go directly to Kuranda's website, where you can securely donate a dog or cat bed online and have it shipped directly to MAS!

Thanks, and Happy Holidays from all of us at MAS!

CALENDAR

Sat. Dec. 12 & Sun. Dec. 13
Bring your furry, feathered or finned friend for a photo with "Santa Claws" from 1PM to 4PM at the Hurstbourne Lane PetSmart! S.P.O.T. will be on site with extra adoptable animals from 1PM to 6PM on Saturday!

Now thru Jan. 2
Home for the Holidays Adoption Promotion! Receive \$50 off any dog adoption and \$25 off any cat adoption—with no age restrictions!

DID YOU KNOW?

Visit local business to "adopt" an animal from our MAS angel trees & donate much needed items to help the animals! Available now thru Dec. 31!

- Pretty Paws (4101 Oechsli Ave)
- Leslie H. Spetz Custom Picture Framing (2400-C Lime Kiln Lane)
- PetSmart (3580 Hurstbourne Pkwy)
- Holly Cosmetics, Holly Ralston Olyler (4836 Brownsboro Center)
- Carmichael's Bookstore (1295 Bardstown Rd. & 2720 Frankfort Ave)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Laura Younkin

Volunteer since: December of 2007. I've seen a lot of positive changes in the past two and a half years. I'm looking forward to more good changes, like the new adoption facility.

Why did you start volunteering?

My reason is twofold. I am a library media specialist at Ballard High School. A student wanted to start an animal club and asked me to be the sponsor. One of the activities the Ballard Animal Relief Club (BARC) does is work one Saturday a month at Metro. I started out working with the students, but now I volunteer the other weekends on my own. The other part of that reason is I took in a stray beagle years ago and she was one of the best things to ever happen to me. My husband and I couldn't add anymore animals to our household (or so we thought), so I wanted to help dogs and cats anyway I could.

What do you do as a volunteer?

The beautiful thing about Metro is they need you. They truly need help and they appreciate any time and talent you can offer. Socializing cats and walking dogs was how I started. Hanging out with the animals was so much fun. Eventually I started helping update the Petfinder pages, and that's my main responsibility still. (If anyone is interested in joining the team, please let me know!) I've walked dogs in parades, helped animals and rescue groups unite, assisted with adoptions, driven a Great Pyreneese mix to Cincinnati, worked adopt-a-thons at PetSmart and fostered animals.

Isn't fostering hard?

My friends ask me that all the time. I do get attached to the dogs and it can be hard to say goodbye. However, I've seen so many dogs go into wonderful, loving homes, it makes it so much easier to let them go. We specialize in hounds so when there is a beagle in despair, the adoption folks at Metro call. I've met the most amazing people through animal rescue. I'm still in touch with four families who adopted our foster beagles this summer, and two are now volunteering at Metro, too!

It's gotten to be almost cliché, but I love the Mahatma Gandhi quote "Be the change you want to see in the world." I want a better life for shelter animals and we volunteers can make that happen.

MAS SEEKS DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

MAS needs volunteers to help with many things at our shelter, including: greeting visitors; helping potential adopters select one of our adoptable animals; answering phones and assisting with clerical duties; providing short-term foster homes to animals that have health or age related issues and to those awaiting transport to rescue groups; walking dogs and socializing animals; cleaning kennels and cages; writing descriptions for and taking pictures of animals for Petfinder; washing dishes and doing laundry.

If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks as a volunteer for at least four hours per week for a minimum of six months, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at (502) 574-5556 to RSVP for an orientation. Upcoming orientation dates are: Sat. Dec. 19 at noon; Wed. Dec 23 at 4pm; Sat. Jan. 2 at noon; Wed. Jan. 6 at 4pm; Sat. Jan. 16 at noon; Wed. Jan. 20 at 4pm; Sat. Jan. 30 at noon.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are upon us, which means there are lots of new interesting things for our pets to explore, such as holiday décor and treats. With this in mind, MAS wants to offer you some holiday pet safety tips to ensure you and your pets have a safe season.

Many holiday plants are dangerous to pets, and can be deadly. Examples include holly, mistletoe, poinsettias, and lilies (most lilies are extremely dangerous to cats and can cause death, even with prompt veterinary attention). If you choose to keep these plants in your home this holiday, make sure to keep them out of reach of your pets.

Pets can be very attracted to ornaments, tinsel, and ribbon and may chew or ingest them, which can cause stomach upset and intestinal blockage. Be sure to supervise your pets when they are in rooms with these items, and try to avoid placing these objects within your pets' reach.

Christmas trees can tip over if your pet pulls on them, climbs them, or runs around them. Be sure to secure your tree so that it can't tip over. Also, if you have a live tree, it can leach pesticides and sap into the water. Be sure to purchase a tree stand with a cover for the water so your pet cannot drink it.

Many pets are very interested in electrical cords and lights. Prevent electrocution by taping extension cords to baseboards and not allowing your pets to play with holiday light strings, even if not plugged in.

As always, refrain from feeding your pet food from the table. Chocolate, turkey or ham bones or skins, sweet baked goods, and other popular human holiday favorites are not suitable for your pets. The cocoa found in chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats, and bones can splinter and cause choking or intestinal tears. Keep your pets' stomachs full this holiday by feeding them their normal diets, and perhaps treating them with a rawhide bone, canned pet food, or catnip toy.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Dear MAS,

My husband and I adopted a three-month-old Border Collie / Jack Russell mix from you about two and a half weeks ago. We have named him Puck and he is one happy boy!

He has been to the veterinarian a couple of times now and has gotten all of the vaccination boosters he still needs to keep him healthy. He weighs 12.6 pounds now and loves eating sticks and chasing frogs in the front yard. He is the "Belle of the Ball" where ever he goes! He loves his chew toys, playing tug of war, and jumping on my head when we sit on the couch!

I knew you all would enjoy a little update on Puck and to know how much happiness you helped bring to us and to him. He is a perfect fit for our family.

He just spent a weekend at my aunt's house with her and her dogs while we were away. He had a blast running around the back yard. My aunt's older male dog was very tolerant of him and taught him all the big boy things. They are great pals now!

Thanks again, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
The Thackers



PET PERSONALS



Hi there, I'm [Bobble](#)! I'm almost two-years-old, a mix between a Shar Pei and a Carolina Dog, and everyone here tells me I'm a real handsome fella'. I'm a special dog and will need a special home to love me forever. I'm a very smart guy with tons of energy, and unfortunately my previous owners didn't have the patience or skill to properly socialize me and teach me to be a good boy. I will need someone with extensive dog behavior training experience and a big, forgiving heart who can teach me how to become the well-behaved, loving companion I long to be. I've also been known to escape from gates and fences, so I need a home with a tall, secure fence and owners who will always supervise me when I'm outside. I hope someone out there reading this has the right experience and the room in their heart to make me a part of their family. I promise to be the most loyal friend to the person who knows how to give me what I need. If you think that could be you, please call MAS or come visit me today. My animal ID number is A388676.

Prrr... my name is [KiKi](#). I'm a domestic short-haired Tabby and I'm four years old. I'm currently a staff favorite pick; everyone really loves me. My favorite thing to do is cuddle and be petted, I'll even come when called! I'm very calm and the staff thinks I would be wonderful in a family with children, and would do just as well in a quiet, single-person home. I get along well with dogs, too, which pretty much makes me purr-fect for anyone! My former owners weren't able to care for me anymore, so they brought me to MAS hoping someone else could give me a new home. I'm really hoping that I'll get to go home for the holidays; it would be the first time I've ever spent them alone. If you're looking for a great family cat to give lots of love and laughter for years to come, I'm the cat for you. When you call or come visit, please make sure to have my animal ID number with you; that's A399106. I can't wait to meet you and curl up in your lap!



CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR ADOPTABLE PETS HERE!

If you no longer wish to receive our monthly newsletters, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

Questions or comments? Please contact Metro Animal Services at (502) 361-1318.

